



HISTORY

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Church

IN

AMERICA:

WITH SKETCHES OF ALL HER MINISTRY, CONGREGATIONS,  
MISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, Etc.,  
AND EMBELLISHED WITH OVER  
FIFTY PORTRAITS AND  
ENGRAVINGS.

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BY

W. MELANCTHON GLASGOW,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

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UNDERTAKEN with the approval of the Synod of the Reformed  
Presbyterian Church in America, and by a resolution passed in its  
session at Newburgh, New York, June 8, 1887.

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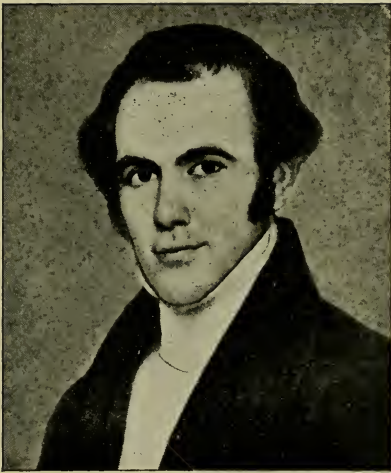
in the South and West for several years. He was ordained by the Western Presbytery, installed pastor of the congregation of Cincinnati, Ohio, October 10, 1818, and, for constant intemperate habits, was deposed by the same court, August 20, 1821. He was afterwards restored in the Associate Reformed Church, and preached as a supply to the Second Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati, Ohio. He connected with the New School Covenanter Church, preached in Cincinnati, and frequently lectured in the Mechanic's Institute. He died a reformed man, at the home of his brother, near Oxford, Preble County, Ohio, August 15, 1845. He was thrice married. First to Miss Margaret Miller, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; second to an intemperate woman who was the cause of his trouble; and third to Mrs. Camp, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who was a great worker in the Methodist Church. He was a man of a commanding appearance, a popular preacher, and an eloquent lecturer. He was a well-read historian, proficient in Biblical literature, possessing a mind well stored with useful knowledge, and was frequently engaged as a lecturer as well as a preacher.

MOSES RONEY:

Son of James and Jane (McWhirter) Roney, was born near Canonsburgh, Washington County, Pennsylvania, September 20, 1804.\* His parents were descended from a long line of Covenanter ancestry, and their first settlement in America was in South Carolina, where tradition says they prospered. Their principles being so antagonistic to the institution of human

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\* MS. from his son, Hon. J. B. Roney, Philadelphia, Pa.



MOSES RONEY.

slavery, they left their home in the South and emigrated to Western Pennsylvania—then the “great wilderness West.” Here they made a new home, building a house (still standing) from logs cut in the forest and hewn into shape by the immediate ancestors of Moses Roney. His parents were most exemplary members of the Covenanter Church, who gave him a strict religious training and instilled into his mind those principles of civil and religious liberty which bore fruit throughout the whole of his after life. In 1818, he entered Canonsburgh Academy, and graduated with first honors from Jefferson College in 1823. Soon afterwards he left his home with a parental blessing, and as his outfit with which to begin the battle of life—a horse, saddle, bridle and the saddlebags of the day. Turning his face eastward he rode to Baltimore, Maryland, where he sold his travelling outfit, and taught in a classical school for two years, during which time he was a member of the Baltimore congregation. He then repaired to Coldenham, New York, where he studied theology under the direction of the Rev. Dr. J. R. Willson, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, June 8, 1829. He was ordained by the Northern Presbytery, and installed pastor of the congregation of Newburgh, New York, June 8, 1830. He was chosen by Synod as the editor of the *Reformed Presbyterian*, and continued as editor of that magazine from its first issue in March, 1837, until his death, with the exception of the year 1848, when he was in the South. In 1843, he contracted a severe cold while engaged

in his untiring efforts in behalf of his congregation and the people by whom he was surrounded. The immediate cause of it was his pastoral visits, on one of which occasions he was going homeward in mid-winter from an overheated room whither he had been summoned on an errand of charity, and was kept out in the cold winter air until morning in returning. This reception of cold was followed by an inflammation of the lungs and hemorrhages, but he continued actively engaged in his pastoral duties. During this period the bold spirit of his ancestors came to the front, and he became a recognized, though quiet, leader of the abolitionists of the neighborhood, entertaining at his house, when hotels were closed against them, the leaders in the movement. It is related of him that upon one occasion when an anti-slavery meeting was to be held in his church at which he was to be present, a number of his fellow-citizens called upon him and warned him of his danger. With the courage that always distinguished him, after thanking them, he went to the meeting, and it is said his personal presence prevented an outbreak which threatened to be serious, as he was held in high esteem by those who differed from his political as well as religious views. In 1847, his disease had made such rapid progress that he was advised by his physicians to spend the winter in a warmer climate. Unwilling to leave his post of duty, he went to Baltimore and consulted one of the most eminent physicians of that city, who had been his friend in earlier years. Acting upon his advice he immediately went to Aikin, South Caro-

lina, to which place also he returned the following winter. Being thus compelled to abandon pastoral duties, he resigned the Newburgh congregation, October 10, 1848. In the summer of 1849, he accepted the Presidency of Westminster College, Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, and removed his family to that city, where he continued to labor, until his death by consumption, July 3, 1854, and was buried in the old graveyard of Coldenham, New York. He married Miss Elizabeth F. Beattie, of Coldenham, New York, in 1831, whose mother was descended from the famous Belknap family of that region. He was one of the most fascinating pulpit orators of his day. He was eloquent both in sentiment and expression, and possessed a full loud voice. His whole bearing was intellectual, and one calculated to carry influence and dignity into every department of Church work. As a teacher in Baltimore, pastor and editor in Newburgh, professor and editor in Allegheny, his voice and his pen were always used to their full extent in the furtherance of truth and righteousness. While many differed with him in sentiment, none ever doubted his sincerity. His was a master mind. Endowed as his birthright with the sense of true honor, and possessing an unyielding devotion and unwavering attachment to the distinctive principles of the Covenanter Church, he lived as he died, in the full belief that no less to the Covenanters of Scotland than to the Puritans of England, America owed her manifold blessings of civil and religious liberty. Religiously he was so strong in his deep-rooted conviction of the truth of the principles, that when the ordeal

came through which the Church passed in 1833, he was the leader who called together those who held intact the testimony of the Church. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1843.

**THOMAS ALEXANDER RUSK :**

Son of Thomas and Mary (Westby) Rusk, was born in the city of New York, New York, December 16, 1859. He received his early education in the public schools, and in the Columbia Grammar School, graduating from Columbia College in 1880. He studied theology two years in the Allegheny Seminary, and engaged in clerical work in New York. In the fall of 1883, he resumed his studies in the Union Seminary, New York, where he graduated in May, 1885. He was licensed by the New York Presbytery, May 20, 1885, and preached in New Brunswick, and other parts of the Church.

**WILLIAM LLOYD CUMMINGS SAMSON :**

Son of Henry F. and Isabella M. (McKenery) Samson, was born in Wyman, Louisa County, Iowa, December 31, 1863. His parents removed to Washington, Iowa, in 1881, where he received his early education in the Washington Academy, graduating from Geneva College in 1885. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, was licensed by the Iowa Presbytery, April 4, 1888, and preached in Houlton, Maine, for some time.

**DAVID SCOTT :**

Son of William and Margaret (Gregg) Scott, was born in Pollockshaws, near Glasgow, Scotland, July 17, 1794. In very early life he entered upon a thorough